

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2001 LB 543

things to them. They are so dumb. You know why I say that? I read...that's what I got to stop doing, I've got to stop reading that stuff they send out, that their union sends out. And sometimes I look at that and I say, why are these people even teaching? What can they teach? But that's the way it goes. If it had not have been for that big publicity push by the teachers union, over \$100,000, this issue wouldn't have the profile it does. I'm not saying that an issue that has merit should not be ballyhooed, but the methodology they're using is pretty poor stuff, because they are not showing...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...what the teachers are doing. They're saying, we'll do a better job if you pay us; we don't want to talk about the poor job we're doing now, the worsening test scores. They're not responsible for that. The principals are not responsible. The administrators are not responsible. So who's responsible for the worsening test scores? The children. You can't expect these schools to teach children. If this child doesn't know math, you can't expect the school to teach him math. His parents ought to teach him that. If this little girl doesn't know fractions, that's her parent's fault. They should have taught her fractions before she came to school. What do you think the school is? A place where they take people who are illiterate and teach them how to read? People who don't know how to count, they come here, we're supposed to teach them how to count? Why, that's not what schools are about, that's not what teaching is about. Until they start talking about educating, then they don't have my ear.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Raikes, on the Maxwell amendment.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I need to correct a...some misinformation I provided, although I think it had to do with trying to demonstrate my constitutional prowess, although I doubt if most of you paid close attention, given your predilections on my abilities there. But I did mention that private schools are not mentioned in the constitution, and that is incorrect. Private schools are